

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 7**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: MARCH 29, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from the previous report.
3. DAMAGES: The final Spring Snowmelt Flood Outlook, issued March 28 by the National Weather Service, indicates the chance still exists for near record or exceeding record flooding in the Red River Basin. High snow depths range from 24 to 30 inches. Snow water equivalents also are high, from four to eight inches. These conditions, coupled with above normal soil moisture, contribute to a high spring snowmelt flood potential for Red River tributaries and a severe spring snowmelt flood potential for the Red River. The primary crest for the Red River is expected to occur as follows: the first or second week of April at Wahpeton; mid-April at Fargo; mid- to late April at Grand Forks; and late April to early May at Pembina.

Weather Service predictions still call for Devils Lake to rise to 1,440.5 feet, one-half foot below its record level, set in 1830. Predictions for the James River call for a moderate flood potential. The flood potential for the Souris River and its tributaries remains moderate to high. In the west, flooded tributaries of the Missouri River are expected to remain high into the March 30-April 5 week.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Individual Assistance indicated that 211 homes in seven western North Dakota counties were affected by flooding during the March 21-23 weekend. Of those homes, 104 were affected but habitable, 89 experienced minor damage and were temporarily uninhabitable, and 18 received major damage and are, or were, temporarily uninhabitable. No home was destroyed. Teams of state and federal inspectors conducted the PDA on March 26 and March 27 in Dunn, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Sioux and Stark Counties. Information from this PDA and a tribal PDA will be included with other individual damage assessments if additional flooding occurs elsewhere in the state.

Individual Assistance assessments were also conducted at the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation and Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. State and federal inspectors found four homes at Standing Rock and 24 homes at Fort Berthold that were affected by flooding. Two Fort Berthold homes were privately owned, while the other homes at the Indian reservations were owned by U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

As flood-swollen tributaries spilled into the Missouri River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will increase releases from Oahe Reservoir, south of Bismarck, from 25,000 to 50,000 cfs on March 29. Lake Oahe had risen more than five feet during the past two weeks as it received nearly two million acre feet of water from melting snow.

A flooding Apple Creek inundated nearby Apple Creek Road, requiring officials to close the road from Burleigh County Highway 10 to Lincoln Road. Apple Creek was recorded at 16.54 feet on March 29; flood stage is 15 feet. A flood warning continues for the creek, although reports indicate that ice has moved out of the creek to the mouth of the Missouri River.

In Emmons County, spring runoff and ice jams are causing flooding along Beaver Creek and in the city of Linton, where one road was temporarily under water. Flood waters inundated N.D. Highway 34 at three locations.

As runoff takes place in central North Dakota, Spiritwood Lake in Stutsman County is at 1,446.17 feet, just .19 shy of last summer's all-time high elevation of 1,445.98 feet. The current elevation is .13 feet below the natural overflow elevation of 1,446.30 feet in the lake's southeast corner. Officials are concerned that overflow is imminent.

An overflowing culvert caused flooding of four homes in the city of Edgeley in LaMoure County.

In Foster County, where spring runoff is beginning to flow, the emergency manager has received reports of one inundated road and a damaged culvert.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In response to western North Dakota flood victims' immediate needs, the American Red Cross had spent \$16,949 by March 28 for individual assistance, which includes, food, clothing, building materials and furniture. The Red Cross has established files for 137 cases of individual assistance, with most of the cases in Mott, Beulah and Hazen. Volunteers served 1,469 meals from three fixed locations and one mobile station. The Red Cross also operated a shelter for two nights for 13 flood victims. By March 28, the Red Cross had served 2,554 meals to flood workers in eastern North

Dakota The Red Cross provided meals at fixed sites in Grand Forks, Marvel, Minto and Grafton. In Grand Forks, students at a Central High School food service class provided 1,000 cookies a day for Red Cross volunteers. At present, approximately 165 Red Cross volunteers are assisting with flood preparations.

When limited flooding occurred in the city of Edgeley in LaMoure County, approximately 60 volunteers filled and placed 4,500 sandbags.

By March 27, volunteers in Grand Forks had filled more than 210,000 sandbags. Plans call for sandbagging operations to continue through March 30.

In Pembina County, volunteers in the cities of Crystal, Hamilton, Natchez and Pembina are continuing sandbagging efforts. The Salvation Army will provide lunch on March 29 to sandbaggers in Pembina.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On March 28, N.D. National Guard helicopter crews sprayed a mixture of water with a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved dye on a three-mile stretch of Beaver Creek, east of the N.D. Highway 1804 bridge in Emmons County. This mixture was used to test its effectiveness in preventing or reducing the occurrence of ice jams. State and federal officials approved the test.

In anticipation of flooding, the N.D. Highway Patrol, the N.D. Department of Transportation and their counterparts in Minnesota recently met to discuss alternate traffic plans.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol conducted a surveillance flight on March 27 for Burleigh County and Weather Service officials.

Burleigh County officials are monitoring the level of Apple Creek. They are concerned flood waters could result in the closure of Lincoln Road, from Yegen Road to 52nd Street. Briardale area residents were placed on alert to the flood potential.

In Emmons County, sandbags have been distributed by city of Linton and county officials. Road maintenance crews are working to open plugged culverts. Crews have also blasted an ice jam near a county bridge. Businesses in the floodplain have built dikes around their facilities, and homeowners have placed sandbags around their homes.

Officials for Ransom County and the cities of Lisbon, Fort Ransom and Enderlin are stocking sandbags and sand.

The Grand Forks emergency manager is building a computer data base of every home or business in the floodplain. This information includes present elevation of structures and the number of sandbags needed to raise the present elevations to USACE recommended levels. Emergency management officials are also in the process of installing the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN). This Weather Service system allows for immediate access to weather data.

The Nodak Rural Electric Cooperative is issuing public information regarding flooding safety issues.

In Mercer County, where the Knife River flooded during the March 21-23 weekend, homeowners are pumping water out of their basements and are removing damaged building components, personal property and mud. The city of Beulah opened its dump free of charge for disposal of flood-damaged materials and possessions.

McIntosh County Commissioners upgraded their emergency declaration to a disaster declaration. The Burleigh County Commission has issued an emergency declaration. Since late February, when the first flood declaration was signed, 16 counties, 29 cities and one township have issued emergency declarations. Officials for eight counties and two cities have signed disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

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Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director